

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /176 W

----- 012793

R 141200Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1447

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6395

STAFF ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJ: ENERGY: GOI SIGNS FIRST OFFSHORE OIL CONTRACT

REF: A) NEW DELHI 6063; B) NEW DELHI A-392, NOV. 3, 1973

1. ON MAY 14, THE GOI SIGNED ITS FIRST OFFSHORE OIL EX-
PLORATION CONTRACT WITH A FOREIGN GROUP OF COMPANIES. THE
GROUP, ALL AMERICAN, CONSISTS OF THE NATOMAS COMPANY (SAN
FRANCISCO), CARLSBERG PETROLEUM (LOS ANGELES), CROWN CENTRAL
PETROLEUM (HOUSTON), AND LONE STAR GAS (DALLAS). ALTHOUGH
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ALL NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE CON-

DUCTED BY CARLSBERG REPRESENTATIVES, A RECENT SWITCH IN PRIORITIES NOW PLACES NATOMAS AS THE PRINCIPAL PARTNER OF THE "NATOMAS GROUP OF COMPANIES" (INCORPORATED IN INDIA SEPARATELY AS NATOMAS INDIA, LTD., CARLSBERG INDIA, LTD., CROWN INDIA, LTD., AND LSG INDIA, LTD.).

2. THE NATOMAS GROUP NOW HOLDS 28,280 SQUARE KILOMETERS (10,919 SQUARE MILES) OF AREA UNDER AN "INDONESIAN-TYPE" PROFIT-SHARING CONTRACT (REF A) FOR THE EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL. THE AREA IS BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE SOUTH SHORELINE OF THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL, ON THE SOUTH BY THE 100 FATHOM LINE OF INDIA'S CONTINENTAL SHELF, ON THE EAST BY INDIA'S INTERNATIONAL BORDER WITH BANGLADESH, AND ON THE WEST BY THE STATE OF ORISSA'S EASTERN SHORELINE (AREA VII - REF B). FIELD WORK (I.E., OFFSHORE PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED SEISMIC SURVEYS) WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE 1974 MONSOON SEASON, ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1974.

3. WE INDICATED EARLIER THAT THE GOI HOPED TO SIGN A SECOND CONTRACT (WITH READING AND BATES OF THE US) ON OR ABOUT THIS DATE ALSO (REF A). THIS HAS BEEN DELAYED "ABOUT A WEEK AT READING AND BATES' REQUEST", ACCORDING TO PETROLEUM MINISTRY SOURCES. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, BUSINESS FIRMS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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